

**STATEMENT OF**  
**UIL HOLDINGS CORPORATION**  
**RE: HB 5118 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNDERGROUND DAMAGE**  
**PREVENTION PROGRAM**  
**BEFORE**  
**THE ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**  
**FEBRUARY 20, 2014**

Senator Duff, Representative Reed and members of the Energy & Technology Committee. UIL Holdings Corporation (UIL), on behalf of its operating companies, The United Illuminating Company (UI), Southern Connecticut Gas Company(SCG) and Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation CNG), submits these comments in support of HB 5118 An Act Concerning The Underground Damage Prevention Program.

The Connecticut Call Before You Dig (CBYD) was established to prevent accidents involving underground utility facilities by contractors, homeowners and other utility companies when excavation, demolition or construction takes place in proximity of those facilities. The intent is to protect the public health and safety of Connecticut residents and the people performing work in or around underground utility facilities.

All utilities, as defined by the CBYD statutes require that the owners register its facilities with a central clearing house established for this purpose. The clearing house also receives all notices of proposed work in the proximity of underground facilities and also dispatches the notices to all utilities so that they mark out their facilities in the area in question before any work can proceed. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) has recently adjudicated several cases of improperly marked utility facilities that were damaged by others performing work in close proximity of underground utilities.

UIL strongly supports the changes to the definition of “public utility” (Lines 9-14) to include the owner of facilities that furnish communications and fire signal services. In Line 61, the bill properly removes the existing exemption from registering municipal storm sewers with the central clearing house for underground facilities. However, HB 5118 does not include language clearly define “sewage” facilities (Line 11).

In 2013 UI had four instances where sanitary or storm sewer facilities were not properly marked by municipalities owning the facilities and were damaged by company construction personnel. In 2012 there were three such instances. Unfortunately, said municipalities served notice to the Company that it is responsible for the damage to their facilities and was required to perform

repairs thereof. These situations then lead to negotiations between UI and a municipal partner which in turn may require litigation to ascertain responsibility.

For these reasons, UIL Holdings Corporation respectfully suggests that the Committee amend the language of the definition of public utility to specifically include the owners of storm sewers, sanitary sewers and drainage systems in Line 11 after deleting “sewage”. This will avoid accidental damage to these municipal facilities by requiring governmental entities to register their underground facilities and in turn be required to mark out said facilities at the direction of the central clearing house under the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended by this act.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement in support of HB 5118.

If the Committee has any questions please contact Carlos M. Vázquez, UIL’s Senior Director of Government Relations at 203-521-2455 or Al Carbone, Government Relations, at 203-671-4421.

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